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Malheur Refuge

NARRATIVE REPORT

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CAMP BUENA VISTA HF-3  
Burns, Oregon

February  
1937

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CAMP BUENA VISTA

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Oscar Nelson	Junior Foreman
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Patrick Donegan	Blacksmith



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Cat Crew Foreman

Leland Sitz

Dragline Shovel Operator

Norman Stearns

Dragline Shovel Operator

Thomas Reichardt

Dragline Shovel Operator

J. H. Carter

Ass't. Biological Aide

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Skilled Workman

ARMY

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Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Frank E. Morhart.

Store Officer

Samuel I. Bross

Camp Contract Surgeon

Joe E. Miller

Educational Advisor



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BUENA VISTA RESIDENCE & PIPE LINE

A crew numbering nine enrollees did finishing work in Buena Vista type C Residence during February. The finishing work included a variety of small jobs, such as varnishing doors and interior woodwork, laying linoleum on the floors of the kitchen, bathroom and entrance ante room, putting molding along the walls, painting the furnace cold air inlet pipes, putting nail holes and many more jobs classed as finishing work.

During the latter two weeks of February a part of the B.V. Residence crew cleaned out the water pipe ditch from the Residence to the new water storage tank. This crew was coupling pipe between the tank and building at the end of February. As soon as the pipe is coupled the Residence water system will be complete except that provision is yet to be made for disposal of water used in laundering in the basement, and the well pump is not yet set up.

J. D. Sanders directed the Residence and pipe line work.

The heating system in the Residence functions now and the lighting system is installed except for the light plant.

Due to its sturdy construction, the Buena Vista Residence, when completed, could house several generations of people during the next few decades.



The pipe line ditch from the water storage tank to the B.V. Residence Building is being cleaned out preparatory to connecting the pipe line at the new residence water storage tank, part of which can be seen in the right foreground. The course of the ditch line can be seen running out to a point beside B.V. - Center Patrol trail & levee, where the well for the residence is located.





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SURVEYING

Seven and one half miles of lineal surveys were made for fence locations along Rockford Lane and for Sod House fencing project in Malheur basin during the week ending February sixth.

A two mile grade line survey for a barrow pit location was staked along the road between Buena Vista and Narrows, that the road surface may be better drained while the earth excavated from the barrow pit may be used for road fills where needed.

A check was made on Buena Vista ditch excavation.

Levels were set for the bridges constructed across Grain Camp ditch and Buena Vista ditch. Stakes were set to show the fill needed for the bridge approaches.

Ten and one half miles of preliminary survey levels, grades and cross sections were staked off in Diamond Lane preliminary to raising the road surface level. An estimate was made of the amount of earth fill needed on this lane. Location was marked for placing of a culvert.

The last week in February surveyor Clark spent in determining positions of dykes and road in relation to section corners and grades. This work called for eight and one half miles of line survey.



Driving right of way stake preliminary to locating barrow pit on Buena Vista to Narrows road. By excavating a barrow pit on either side the road and using the excavated dirt on the road surface for fills where needed, road surface drainage during wet weather will be improved.





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FENCING

Buena Vista fence crew worked intermittently at the fencing project during February, as they were shifted part of the time to other projects. Buena Vista fence crew during February, took down one quarter mile of unserviceable fence, cut onethousand fence stays, dug post holes, and completed two miles of fence along Rockford Lane.

Sod House fence crew under the direction of Foreman John Carter dug 1127 post holes, set 1793 posts, built ten fence corners and two gates, and set up two rock jacks during February fence construction in the Malheur basin. Five and one half miles of fence were completed during February.



Setting posts for new Refuge fence on Rockford Lane



Wiring stays in fence along Rockford Lane. Note the two culverts in edge of the road fill. Head-gates will be placed over these culverts to control depth of water backing up here at a later date.





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BRIDGES

Three bridges, two two span and onethree span, were completed by Foreman Oscar Nelson with a crew averaging six enrollees, during February.

The first bridge was completed across Buena Vista ditch on Diamond Lane, near Diamond Lane's west terminus in the Frenchglen - Narrows road. This bridge, located  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Camp Buena Vista, replaced a former bridge which was removed in January in the interest of safety.

The second bridge built during February spans B.V. ditch at the Buena Vista end of the B.V. - Center Patrol combination truck trail and levee. A week was spent in building this bridge, which replaces a bridge razed a year ago. After the bridge was built the cat crew made a fill 150 feet long of 750 cubic yards of earth to fill a gap in the bridge approach between the bridge and the B.V.-C.P. trail & levee. A short piece of fence was removed for the bridge approach on the Camp Buena Vista side of the B.V. ditch.

The last bridge built in February replaced a rotted bridge structure across Grain Camp ditch, about 150 yards below Grain Camp Dam. Grain Camp ditch divides down valley in Y shape into Buena Vista ditch and Grain Camp Lateral ditch (Grain Camp Lateral sometimes referred to as B.V.



Lateral).

The cat crew prepared the ditch bottoms and moved earth for the first and third bridges built in February. The General dragline shovel did this work for the Diamond Lane bridge.

Lava slab abutment stone for these bridges was hauled from the lava beds. Bridge timbers and pilings were coated with creosote paint or Fab-cote preserving paint.

Foreman Oscar Nelson and two of his crew built a small pile driver February 23d & 24th with which to drive two by six and two by eight sheet piling for the foundation base of a concrete spillway in the B. V. to Center Patrol combination truck trail & levee.



Sawing off bridge upright for a bridge across Buena Vista ditch at the B.V. end of the B.V. to Center Patrol truck trail.



Above (two span) bridge across B.V. ditch nearly completed. The bridge approaches were not completed until after this picture was taken.





An RD-7 Cat was used to bulldoze out ditch bottom in preparation for laying of bridge abutments.



Carrying a stringer during bridge construction across Grain Camp ditch.



Two span bridge completed over Grain Camp ditch. The bridge crew is cleaning up and burning trash. Two boys on bridge are carrying a tub of chips to the fire.





Bridge completed early in February for Diamond Lane  
across Buena Vista ditch.



44 ton Osgood dragline shovel crossing a Blitzen  
River bridge. This bridge was built by Foreman  
Oscar Nelson during December last. This bridge  
connects the Center Patrol road, which parallels  
the left or West bank of this river, with the end  
of the lava bed trail to be constructed eastward  
from the right end of this bridge.





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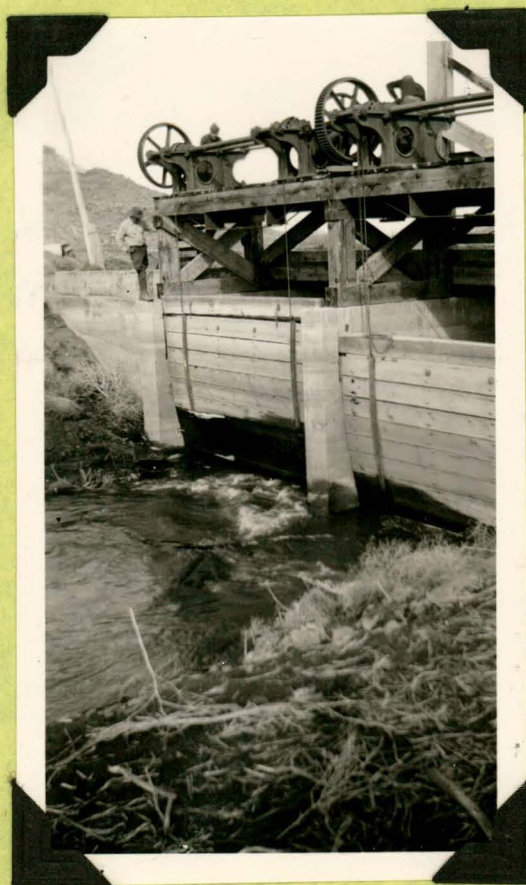
DITCH EXCAVATION

The General dragline, with a shovel capacity of five eighths cubic yard per scoop, worked at Buena Vista Ditch excavation for two weeks in February, excavating 3750 cubic yards or 925 lineal feet of ditch. This shovel was operated by Norman Stearns.

The Osgood dragline shovel moved from its dyke building location on the East side the Blitzen River, crossed the recently completed Blitzen river bridge connecting the lava beds truck trail site with the Center Patrol trail, and moved into the position vacated by the General dragline shovel on Buena Vista ditch. The movement of this shovel to B.V. ditch location occurred during the third week of February. The Osgood machine, operated by Leland "Babe" Sitz, has a shovel capacity of one yard. During the remaining part of February the Osgood excavated 6311 cubic yards of earth or 2104 lineal feet of Buena Vista ditch. The ditch is now completed to a point a mile or less south of Camp Buena Vista and between Buena Vista and Diamond Lane.



Osgood excavating Buena Vista ditch at a point about one mile south of Camp Buena Vista.



Rolling up gates of Grain Camp dam to release an accumulation of debris that had lodged at the base of the water gates with the Spring rise of the Blitzen's water level. When the Buena Vista ditch is completed this dam will impound water which will overflow down B.V. ditch.



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WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES

A crew averaging from eight to ten enrollees worked at installation of water control structures in levees and canal banks during the three weeks following the first week of February.

The method of installing was to place a culvert in a levee or canal bank at a previously marked level. This work was done by a shovel crew some times aided by a caterpillar bulldozer. The headgate was placed over the culvert opening on the water side of the levee or canal and a lava stone wall was built up around the heads and outlets of the water control structures. These stone walls were laid up with a one to one slope. After the culvert was covered over by the shovel crew and bulldozer, the ditch or levee surface about the headgate (water side) was covered over with rip rap of rabbit brush. A layer of stones was placed over the brush, this rip rap surrounding the headgate in rough semi-circle with a radius varying from twelve to twenty feet, depending on the estimated need.

Diameters of culverts placed during February ranged from twenty to thirty inches. Eight culverts complete with headgates, stonewalls and rip rap were installed during February.

A culvert of thirty inch diameter was placed in the Buena Vista to Center Patrol combination road and levee. Twenty cubic yards of earth were moved in installing a water control structure in B.V. Lateral ditch.



Five culverts with headgate attachments were installed in dykes, in unit eight. Sixty four tons of lava stone were hauled from the lava beds for walling water control structures. The water control crew reports "one dead cow drug off" during February.

Water control structures project was under the direction of Foreman Carl Jackson.



Placing a water control structure in bank of B.V. ditch, that water may be turned into North Field, unit 8.



Bulldozer and shovel crew are covering over this water control structure. The ditch bottom near the culvert headgate will be rip rapped with rabbit brush covered with a layer of stones.





Walling in the rear end of a culvert in a dyke in North Field, unit 8. Rip rap of brush covered with stones will be laid about the culvert outlet on the ground, to prevent soil wash.



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DYKES FOR LAKE & POND DEVELOPMENT

Three caterpillar bulldozers built dykes and levees during February. 24,368 cubic yards of earth were moved or 4420 lineal feet of dyke was completed. A dyke of 5150 lineal feet length, begun in January, was completed in Unit 8, during February. This dyke is built across low areas and takes advantage of higher surface levels, such as knolls, where possible. This dyke ranges in height above the natural ground surface up to 6.3 feet. Construction of a dyke was begun in Middle field, unit 8, during February.

Foreman Carl Jackson directed the activities of the caterpillar crew during February.

4610 cubic yards of earth was moved of which 855 lineal feet of dyke was built by the Osgood dragline shovel, operated by Leland Sitz, during two weeks of February.

During the last week of February the General dragline shovel operated from daylight until dark by using two operators, Norman Stearns and "Bud" Reichardt. The General dragline was used to move 1200 cubic yards of earth in construction of a combination road fill and dyke for the new lava bed truck trail under construction.



The weather, though bitter in early February, has moderated from what it was in January. The soil is still frozen under the top surface. We are not having the trouble with heavy machinery (starting it) that we had in January, while the soil is more easily moved with our earth moving equipment.

Use of two crews of operators allowed use of the tractor equipment from six a. m. until six p. m. during February.



Building dyke in North Field, Unit 8, North of Buena Vista.





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TRUCK TRAILS

In the third week of February 672 cubic yards of earth was moved by the General dragline in making a fill in Diamond Lane. Detour signs were made and a detour used for vehicles during the week.

Twelve hundred cubic yards of road fill was made for the lava bed truck trail. This is the first actual construction work on the lava bed trail, which is being built to connect the Center Patrol with the cinder beds on the East side the Blitzen Valley. The lava bed truck trail will serve as a dyke as well as a truck trail. Completion of the lava beds trail will furnish a large supply of cinders for use in road surfacing.



General dragline shovel making fill for lava bed  
truck trail to the cinder beds on the east side the  
Blitzen Valley. This fill will also serve as a dyke.





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TRANSPORTATION

Items listed under February transportation total one hundred five tons hauled. Cordwood, twenty two tons, was hauled from Burns to Sod House spike camp. Lava stone for bridge abutments, twenty five tons, was hauled from the lava beds to bridge sites. Lava stone was hauled from the lava beds for building culvert walls, while supplies and materials for Camp Buena Vista from Burns completed the tonnage listed under transportation.

This tonnage summary does not include materials hauled from camp to work projects such as the hauling of fence posts.



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CRUSHING

In the last week of February our crushing project started up as we need crushed stone for construction of a concrete spillway on the B.V. to Center Patrol combination. Eight yards of stone were crushed at our crusher stone quarry a few miles south of Buena Vista on the road to Frenchglen. A stone crusher was borrowed from Camp Five Mile.



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GENERAL CLEANUP

An estimated eight acres was cleaned up in the wake of a crew tearing down unserviceable Refuge boundary fence, in the first week of February.

Some wood gathered during fence cleanup was sawed into stove lengths for use in type C buildings.

An unsafe bridge across Grain Camp ditch was razed and the useable lumber hauled to a place near Camp for future use in cinder traps or auxiliary bridges.

The cat crew dug a trench near Buena Vista and buried a pile of old wire that had accumulated.

One mile of old dyke and barrow pit that interfered with present water control plans was smoothed out with a cat and drag.

One old stack yard fence was razed in February.



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### EDUCATION IN CAMP

Education is on the upgrade at Camp Buena Vista. An intensive campaign is carried on to discover each enrollee's educational interests and to provide an outlet, educationally, for these interests. Class work is encouraged because class work provides an element of competition that holds the student, who, if left to individual study, would drift off the course.

Camp Buena Vista has an education committee whose function is to plan, help organize and coordinate the educational program. This committee is composed of Educational Advisor Joe Miller, Camp Superintendent Jim Green, Camp Commander Lieutenant Kloth, and one Company member.

During February the classes exhibiting greatest progress were the surveying class, the road construction class, and the class in Diesel engines.

The surveying class is composed in large part, of the surveying crew. Surveyor Charles Clark is teaching his class surveying that helps promote efficiency in each day's work. This class learns the theory of surveying in the classroom while each day's work in the



field provides the practical experience.

Foreman Carl Jackson teaches the road construction class. This class of cat crew members are receiving knowledge of everyday use in building roads and levees, such as stake reading.

The Diesel class, taught by Leland Sitz and Norman Stearns, is made up of tractor operators, dragline shovel "grease monkeys", assistant mechanics, truckdrivers and others interested in Diesel. This class is being taught in a manner that should result in increased skill in the use and care of machinery on our projects.

An expenditure of thirty five dollars during February purchased leather, books, and weaving materials in a program to promote creative skills, where none now exist, by interesting boys in making articles of useful and artistic value. Plans for the future include a shop with wood working tools.



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### CAMP SAFETY

The technical and Army personnels at Camp Buena Vista have been applying the pressure to make each enrollee safety conscious. This is being done by frequent safety meetings, by relieving any machine operator disregarding advised safety measures and by trying to make safety a matter of personal pride by explaining most accidents as plain "muddleheadedness" on someone's part. All foremen are vitally interested in safety prevention.

our organized safety program includes a weekly safety meeting of the army and technical force, all enrollee leaders and assistant leaders and enrollee machine operators. Suggestions are called for from any person present, and each member at this meeting is urged to be alert to safety needs and suggestions for safety improvement. The ideas brought up at these meetings are recorded by the educational advisor and are passed on to enrollees by our commanding officer or his representative, either at retreat formation or at a general meeting of enrollees held each week.

In camp our stoves, electric wire insulation and condition of the buildings is checked daily.



The steps on our buildings are now being replaced. On projects any men doing work hazardous to eyes are required to wear goggles. Machine operators are being drilled in fire prevention. Crew drivers are warned to observe the utmost in prevention of automobile accidents. A large first aid class, including several members of the technical force, has just completed a course in first aid.

We believe our safety program is working to the good of every one in camp. We have had no lost time accidents since the coming of Company 4787 in October of last year.



Driveway sign at rear of Camp Buena Vista. This sign is one of the obvious features resulting from safety meetings.





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### RECREATION

Camp recreation has shown a decided increase in adherents during February. One improvement, due in part to improved weather and due in part to encouragement and leadership by the army and technical force, is that we have resumed our recreation trips after a long seige of unbroken camp life for most of the boys. These rec trips are not only trips to town, but other places of interest as well.

One Saturday, two heavily loaded trucks attended a dehorning of cattle at a ranch. A minor rodeo, participated in by some of our enrollees and technical force and educational advisor, was the riding of young range stock in a corral from which the stock was selected for dehorning. The animal to be rode was roped; the prospective rider mounted, and the ropes were then taken off the animal. The results were usually short but sweet. Our Camp Superintendent, J. S. Green, demonstrated his skill with the rope, while our Camp Educational Advisor Joe Miller and Surveyor Charles Clark tried their skill at riding calves. One short ride was made with Joe Miller facing the fore and Clark facing aft, both on the same animal.



An interesting trip was made through the large Hines Lumber mill near Burns by two truckloads of boys, on Washington's Birthday. Our Educational Advisor arranged this trip and a guide was furnished us who led us on a follow through of the logs from the time they left the mill pond until they were stacked in piles of lumber.

Several arrowhead hunting expeditions were made during February. A baseball team is being organized and has played one game with Camp Five mile. A volleyball court is to be put up. Our rec hall has been improved by painting and by the addition of furniture, a new library shelf where all enrollees may scan our one hundred new books; new magazine racks have been built, and a dark room for photo developing added to the rec hall. The improvements are largely due to the work of our Educational Advisor, who is developing his carpentering ability, and who claims to be able to collect a truckload of furniture free of cost in one day, if left to canvass Burns, the Harney County seat.



CAMP BUENA VISTA BR-3

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SOD HOUSE HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS

A crew of fifteen enrollees worked on the barn interior during February under the direction of Carpenter Foreman "Sandy" J. B. Sanders. Stalls, mangers with stanchions, and feed boxes were built in the barn. window and door casings were built; windows were hung; doors were built and hung.